

Amendment dated 10/30/2007
Reply to Office Action mailed on 8/20/2007

Application No. 10/774,780
Docket No. Z-3603/Case 8144

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 22, 28, 38, 39, 43 and 44 are pending in the present application. No additional claim fee is believed to be due.

Claims 1-21, 23-27, 29-37 and 40-42 have been cancelled.

Claims 22, 28, and 38 have been amended. Claims 22 and 38 have been amended to set forth the clarifying steps of providing first and second plastic blocks having slots. Claims 22 and 38 have also been amended to eliminate unnecessary language and to place the claims in better form. Claim 28 has been amended to properly refer to the "inserting" step found in claim 22.

New claims 43 and 44 have been added. Support for claim 43 is found in the deleted language of claim 22 from which it depends. Support for claim 44 is found in claim 39.

It is believed these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order.

Claim Objections

Claims 22, 31, 35 and 38 are objected to for various informalities. Claims 31 and 35 have been cancelled. Claims 22 and 38 have been amended to overcome the informalities.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103(a) Over Francis (US Patent 4,516,321)

Claims 22, 28, 29, 31, 32, 35, 38 and 40 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Francis. Claims 29, 31, 32, 35 and 40 have been cancelled.

Francis discloses a blade unit wherein end links 19 are molded about the end portions of wire blade supports 10. This is in contrast to the method of independent claims 22 and 38 where first and second plastic blocks are provided and the longitudinal

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ends of the blades are secured within slots located in the first and second plastic blocks. By providing the plastic blocks first separately one is able to adjust the slot size to provide the desired amount of freedom of movement of the blade ends within the blocks. This is contrast to the molding step of Francis which provides a no freedom for the wire support to move within the end links 19 which are molded about the ends of the wire supports.

Thus, claims 22 and 28 are patentable over Francis and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103(a) Over Francis (US Patent 4,516,321) in view of Anderson (US Patent 5,282,316)

Claims 33 and 34 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Francis, US Patent 3,940,853 in view of Anderson US Patent 5,282,316. Claims 33 and 34 have been cancelled.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103(a) Over Francis (US Patent 4,516,321) in view of Coffin (US 2004/0128835)

Claims 36 and 37 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Francis, US Patent 3,940,853 in view of Coffin US 2004/0128835. Claims 36 and 37 have been cancelled.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103(a) Over Francis (US Patent 4,516,321) in view of Santhagans Van Eibergen (US Patent 6,671,961)

Claims 39, 41 and 42 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Francis in view of Santhagans Van Eibergen. Claims 41 and 42 have been cancelled.

The combination of Francis and Santhagans Van Eibergen fails to create a *prima facie* case of obviousness as Santhagans Van Eibergen fails to provide the missing elements of Francis mentioned above with respect to claim 22 from which claim 39 depends. As such, claim 39 is patentable over the combination and the rejection should be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested.

This response represents an earnest effort to place the application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as now claimed from the applied references. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of this application, entry of the amendments presented herein, and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

THE GILLETTE COMPANY

By 
Signature

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